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CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER PC 7 C01B3/38 C106 C10G2/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) C01B C10G Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category \* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. P,X WO 03 016250 A (ABBOTT PETER EDWARD JAMES 1,5,6 ; JOHNSON MATTHEY PLC (GB)) 27 February 2003 (2003-02-27) cited in the application the whole document Α EP 0 516 441 A (BRITISH PETROLEUM CO PLC) 1,5,6 2 December 1992 (1992-12-02) page 1, line 33 - line 57 page 4, line 15 - line 46 claims 1,4-6 Α. US 4 888 130 A (BANQUY DAVID L) 1,2 19 December 1989 (1989-12-19) figure claim 1 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: \*T\* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance Invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the International "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the international filing date but taler than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the International search report 27/02/2004 20 February 2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer Ruropean Palent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Fax: (+31-70) 340–3016

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